

YOUTH SERVICES POLICY

Title: Youth Street Gangs and Notification Requirements Next Annual Review Date:	Type: B. Classification, Sentencing and Service Functions Sub Type: 8. Youth Related Services Number: B.8.13
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References: La. R.S. 15:1401 through 1407; La. R.S. 1421 through 1430 and JIRMS	
STATUS: Approved	
Approved By: <i>Simon Gonsoulin, Acting Assistant Secretary</i>	Date of Approval: 08/26/2004

1. AUTHORITY:

Acting Assistant Secretary of the Office of Youth Development as delegated on January 27, 2004 by the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

2. PURPOSE:

To provide information regarding street gangs and establish policy for providing pertinent information to appropriate law enforcement agencies set forth pursuant to the laws of this State.

3. APPLICABILITY:

Assistant Secretary, Deputy Assistant Secretaries and all Facility Directors.

4. POLICY:

Findings indicate that youth involvement in gangs stems from many factors, including extensive geographic mobility, rapid urbanization and population growth, substantial pockets of poverty, unemployment, increasing rates of dropout and expulsion, a rich racial and ethnic mix and a transient population of youth. Because the legislature believes that one of the best investments of resources is the prevention of delinquency with special emphasis on youth and street gang prevention, it created Youth Delinquency and Gang Prevention Advisory boards across the state. Youth Services, along with other public and private service providers, advocacy organizations and other organizations working with delinquent youth, etc., are contacts for the advisory boards to

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consult for input on gang-related issues. (Refer to La. R.S. 1421 through 1430 for additional information.)

Youth Services (YS) is required by law to provide pertinent information to appropriate law enforcement agencies; therefore, it is the Deputy Secretary/Assistant Secretary's policy that when a youth is released from secure custody, and was in custody for a violation of La. R.S. 15:1403 or 15:1403.1, or if Youth Services knows that the youth is or was a member of a street gang, appropriate law enforcement agencies shall be notified of the release.

5. PROCEDURES:

- A. During the intake process and during initial classification at the assigned facility, the youth's case record shall be examined to determine if the youth is a street gang member. Such information shall be entered into the JIRMS systems.
- B. Notification of the release of a youth identified as a street gang member shall be sent to the following:
 - 1. the Sheriff of the parish in which the crime was committed;
 - 2. the Sheriff of the parish in which the youth will reside upon release;
 - 3. the Chief of Police of the municipality in which the crime was committed; and
 - 4. the Chief of Police of the municipality in which the youth will reside upon release.
- C. Notification should be made prior to the youth's release, unless the facility does not have prior notice of the court's decision for release. In these cases, notifications will be made as soon as reasonably possible.
- D. Documentation of the notification shall be maintained in the youth's case record.

Previous Regulation/Policy Number: B-08-015
Previous Effective Date: 10/15/1999
Attachments/References: